

Upcoming  
Varsity Games

Friday Oct. 21

Girls Volleyball @  
Lyons Township

Football @Niles  
West

Girls Tennis State  
Meet @Buffalo  
Grove

Boys Soccer  
Regionals @New  
Trier

Saturday, Oct.  
22

Field Hockey  
Sectionals @New  
Trier

Boys Cross Country  
Regionals vs.  
Loyola Academy

Girls Cross Country  
Regionals vs.  
Loyola Academy

Girls Tennis State  
Meet @Buffalo  
Grove

Girls Volleyball @  
Lyons Township

# Girls tennis wins sectional title

Tennis prepares for state tournament after win at sectionals

by Arjun Thakkar

Girls Tennis took the IHSA sectional title on Friday Oct. 14, qualifying them to compete at the state meet.

The sectional tournament was held at Niles West, where the Trevians qualified 5 of 6 athletes to compete at state.

Assistant Varsity Coach Kerry Hall was pleased with the results. "We've bonded together and worked together as a team, so it was very exciting to win at sectionals and qualify for state."

The doubles team of sophomore Michelle Capone and junior Amia Ross are among the 5 going to the state meet.

The two got a bye straight into the quarterfinals. After winning both the quarterfinals and semifinals, Ross and Capone defeated Loyola's top doubles pair Maggie Hines and Caroline Witkowski by 6-4 and 7-6.

Capone said, "Overall our performance at sectionals was really solid, and Amia and I were happy with winning the tournament. Sectionals really tests you and your mental toughness as a tennis player since you obviously want to qualify for state not only for yourself but for the team as well."

Capone also said, "This sectional was considered one of the hardest



A New Trier girls tennis player focuses at IHSA sectional match at Niles West last weekend | Varsity Views

to qualify through, so winning the doubles bracket for the second year in a row was an honor."

The two saw few skills to improve upon after sectionals. For the most part, they felt very satisfied with the work they put out.

Ross did note, however, that they could work on not letting minor setbacks influence their playing during a match.

The other qualifying doubles team, consisting of seniors Michelle Buyer and Natalie Kalter, placed 3rd at sectionals.

Ali Benedetto, a freshman, also competed at the sectional tournament and will be playing at Buffalo Grove.

Regarding Benedetto, Hall said, "It was a very tense situation because Benedetto lost her initial match and had to win the next two matches in order to qualify. It was great to see her qualify, especially as a freshman."

One of the main components of the team's success at sectionals was the support by the team.

Ross said, "Everyone was cheering and representing New Trier. Tennis is one of those sports that doesn't get a lot of school-wide attention, so having the support of our teammates was really helpful. That is what elevated us to play our best this weekend."

Hall noted the winding down of the team as a bittersweet moment. "It's exciting to head to state, but there are definitely some mixed emotions with not regularly seeing all of our players. Having the entire team cheer us on at the games has been a huge benefit."

Hall added, "Our team is very deep, so most of our players who didn't end up qualifying for state would've been qualifiers at almost any other school."

The weekend before, the team competed at Evanston, where they also won the conference title.

"Conference is really just used as a check point to see how you handle and perform under

pressure," said Capone, "and I think everyone on the lineup proved themselves."

As the team prepares for state, Capone and Ross mentioned that practice generally becomes much more focused on improving specific strategies and shots that were flawed at sectionals.

Hall also sees potential for success at state. He said, "Last year, the team placed 3rd in the state. There's definitely a chance to medal at the tournament."

"We hope to see everyone playing on the final day of the tournament on Saturday, but there's definitely some intense competition they'll have to face. Almost everyone agrees that Stevenson is favored to win."

The IHSA state tournament starts on Thursday, Oct. 20 and runs through Saturday, Oct. 22 at Buffalo Grove High School.

# New Trier Green dominates Loyola Gold in 5-1 win

Green scored five goals to put away a young Loyola Team

by Lindsey Burns

New Trier Green Hockey Club won 5-1 over rival Loyola Academy Tuesday, October 11. New Trier's record this year is 8-5, but four of those losses were to strong AAA teams.

"It was just as physical as expected," Senior winger end Alternate Captain, Matt Mulhern said. "We used our speed and skill to our advantage, and we were able to get a clean entry into the offensive zone a few times."

Mulhern credited teammates senior Daniel Hauser, sophomore Gavin Randle and senior Michael Graham with "some of the biggest hits I've seen in awhile."

Senior captain and right wing, Jack Raith agreed the game was unusually rough: "It was a very physical game, with a lot of hacks for Loyola and big hits on both sides."

After Loyola put in the first goal, New Trier responded.

"Offense was buzzing," Mulhern said. "All four lines contributed and did a great job controlling the puck in the offensive zone, and keeping the pressure on the Loyola defense."

The team responded with five unanswered goals. "Our offense was fantastic. We kept pressure in their zone almost the whole game and kept a consistent forecheck," senior right wing Daniel McNerny said. "We were successfully able to maintain



Senior Matt Mulhern receives a pass from Charlie Burton and has an open shot against Loyola's goalie | Youtube

possession for extended periods of time in their zone after creating turnovers; it allowed us to cycle well and create some good chances."

The defense made this win possible by keeping the puck in the offensive zone which allowed the forwards to apply relentless pressure on the Loyola defense.

Raith said "Our defense played a great game, they got shots through to the net in the offensive zone, and locked down the front of the net in our zone."

"That pressure was no accident," Raith said. "Our coaches told us to expose their lack of depth and keep it in their zone all game long."

We expect all our future opponents to have trouble keeping us off the scoreboard."

McNerny said keeping the pressure on was the key to the game: "We were successfully able to maintain possession for extended periods of time in their zone after

creating turnovers," he said.

The defense played aggressive hockey, forcing turnovers all over the ice and putting shots on goal when the opportunity arose.

With new, younger players such as junior Conor Baldwin and sophomore Gavin Randle, the defense has continued to improve.

McNerny said, "our new guys are jelling well and have quickly acclimated to playing at the highest varsity level. They had their best game so far this year."

After letting in the initial short handed score, junior goalie Hayden Wiczorek stepped up his game. Mulhern said he "made key saves throughout the game and did a great job at keeping the momentum in our favor."

McNerny agreed, "Hayden had a great game. He was focused and ready despite letting in that first goal when we were on the power play. He stuck with it and redeemed himself with a couple great saves to keep us

in it."

Several players cited the great support they received from fellow students. "We aren't a school sport," said Raith, "but our team really felt like the whole school was behind us and that makes a difference for everyone."

The spirited crowd helped motivate the team from start to finish. "Playing in front of that massive crowd full of crazy New Trier fans against our biggest rival really is an adrenaline rush and adds that much more motivation," said McNerny.

The team is optimistically looking forward to the rest of the season. Raith said, "It's early in the season and this team is already coming together really well."

Mulhern said the win was exciting, but their next game against Barrington is already on the minds of NTG players: "We're all excited about the win, but we're hungry for more," he said.